

Council Meeting

June 19, 2007 - 5:10 pm

The meeting was called to order by President Spaetti, Councilmen Spaetti, Bunner, Ebert, Kroeger, Winsett, Kress, Cochenour, and Attorney Wetherill were present.

Minutes

May 15, 2007 minutes. Winsett made a motion to approve. Bunner seconded. All in favor. May 31, 2007 minutes, special meeting. Kroeger made a motion to approve. Ebert seconded. All in favor.

Additional Appropriations

County General:

Capital Trial – Judge Roell requested an additional of \$40,000 for capital trial and stated that bills are still coming in and he will have another request next month. He further stated that the state owes the county \$62,378 in reimbursements. Kroeger requested an accounting of what has been spent and what is owed by the state. Kress made a motion to approve. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Unemployment - Shelton explained that the county currently still has two people on unemployment and another one will begin soon and an additional of \$6,000 is requested. Bunner asked if documentation is kept to fight unemployment claims. Shelton explained that when possible claims are fought and up until recently few claims have been paid. Ebert made a motion to approve the \$6,000. Cochenour seconded. All in favor.

BEDC - Jim Edwards, representing the Business Enterprise Development Center, addressed the councilmen and gave a history of what the BEDC has done for the community during the last 18 months. Edwards concluded by requesting \$50,000 in matching funds for the grant to continue the work of the BEDC. Spaetti stated that he sees it as an investment in the future. Winsett asked if this was a one-time request to help the BEDC be self-sufficient. Edwards stated it is hard to say. Attorney Jeff Lindsey read a letter of support from Judy Litherland of AEP and the Spencer County Chamber of Commerce.

Edwards stated that all that is needed this year is a letter of commitment to give the BEDC the money. Ebert asked if the school corporation is supporting the BEDC. Winsett asked if any other business is supporting the BEDC. Lindsey stated that the LEDC has committed to \$10,000. Kroeger stated that the issue is complex because to decrease the tax rate, economic development is needed, but the state is pushing the cost of the development down on the county. Kroeger further stated that without seeing a business plan on how the money will be spent, it is hard to see the benefit to the county. Local businessman Gene Steinkamp stated that he wished the BEDC would have been here when he first started. Bunner asked what will happen if the council does not approve an additional. Edwards stated there will be no project. Winsett asked if the project would continue if \$10,000 was approved. Lindsey stated they would try to move forward but it was unlikely the project could continue.

Ebert made a motion to approve \$10,000. Kroeger seconded. Kroeger added that he feels the \$10,000 is not enough but he will not vote for anymore; it is a worthwhile project but the county can not afford to support it. Spaetti called for a vote. Kroeger, Ebert and Spaetti voted for the additional. Bunner, Winsett, Cochenour, and Kress voted against. The motion did not pass.

Commissioners/Legal Services – Commissioner Rininger explained that Attorney Lueken is not only the attorney for the commissioners but also for the other offices that do not retain their own attorneys. Rininger requested an additional of \$10,000 for legal services. Ebert made a motion to approve. Winsett seconded. All in favor.

Engineer/Mileage – Engineer (Holstein) Lloyd explained that at budget time she requested the use of a county vehicle for engineering summer intern and the council told her to request mileage for him to use his own car and save the cost of insurance on another county vehicle. Kress made a motion to approve \$750 for mileage. Winsett seconded. All in favor.

Surveyor/Full Time Deputy – Surveyor Sublett stated that as an office holder he is entitled to a full time deputy according to statute and requests an additional in the amount of \$25,000. Wetherill stated that the statute states that the office holder is entitled to a full time deputy if it is provided for by the fiscal body, which

is the council. Discussion was had on the amount of help the surveyor and the plan commission need. Spaetti stated that a position has never been added in the middle of the year and Sublett needs to come back at budget time. No motion was made.

Drainage Board/Attorney Fees – Drainage Board President Logsdon explained that at a prior meeting the drainage task force asked the council to help fund the legal research needed and he is now requesting \$1,210 to pay the legal fees. Bunner made a motion to approve. Cochenour seconded. All in favor.

Highway:

Contractual Service/Underground Storage Tanks – Painter requested \$50,000 for the removal of underground storage tanks. IDEM will reimburse the county for any money spent after the first \$35,000. Painter stated he is still waiting on the results of the soil samples. Currently there are \$15,000 worth of bills already owed. Winsett made a motion to approve \$25,000. Ebert seconded. All in favor.

Pre-Trial Diversion

Transcriptionist – Dartt requested \$2,560 for bills generated in transcribing. Shelton explained it is the balance of what was requested at a previous meeting and the wrong amount was advertised. Ebert made a motion to approve. Kress seconded. All in favor.

Law Enforcement Fund

Wages – Dartt stated that the Community Drug Program was set up by ordinance to be funded by its own fees and if there was a shortfall it was to be supported by Pre-Trial Diversion, Law Enforcement Fund or Probation User Fees. Currently it is running very tight and in order to make payroll an additional of \$3,000 from the Law Enforcement Fund is needed and if needed again Judge Roell has agreed to transfer from the Probation User Fees. Martin gave examples of the successes in the program. Dartt explained that all participants who have graduated have not been re-arrested. Cochenour made a motion to approve. Kress seconded. All in favor.

Reassessment

Professional Services – Assessor Arnold requested \$20,000 to hire two experts to assist in an Indiana Board of Tax Review hearing regarding a Kimball appeal. Counties in the past have lost because sufficient evidence was not presented. Kroeger made a motion to approve. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Transfers

Pre-Trial Diversion – Dartt requested transferring a total of \$400 from printing, transcribing, and repair of equipment to office supplies. Ebert made a motion to approve. Cochenour seconded. All in favor.

Reassessment – Arnold requested a transfer within the reassessment budget of \$2,190. from office machines to miscellaneous to pay a Manatron bill for converting the parcel numbers to the 18 digit format required by the state. Kress made a motion to approve. Cochenour seconded. All in favor.

Recorder – Shelton explained that Anita Frakes was hired as part-time help in the recorder's office. Due to office illnesses she has been working full-time since the beginning of May. Shelton requested that \$3,103.12 be transferred from First Deputy to Extra Help to enable the county to temporarily pay Frakes at a full time rate. Kroeger made a motion to approve. Ebert seconded. All in favor.

Resolution 2007-12

The following resolution was read by Kroeger:

A RESOLUTION HONORING THE SOUTH SPENCER REBEL BASEBALL TEAM AS THE HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONS

WHEREAS, the South Spencer Baseball Team recently was crowned as the 2007 State Champions; and,

WHEREAS, the Spencer County Council wishes to express its sincere congratulations to the South Spencer High School baseball team on its accomplishment on being crowned the 2007 Indiana High School baseball champions.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SPENCER COUNTY
COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE: The Spencer County Council hereby expresses its support and congratulations to the South Spencer High School baseball team for its recent crowning as State Champions.

SECTION TWO: The Council also hereby expresses its gratitude to the coaching staff, the families, the fans and the community for their discipline, sportsmanship and support during the team's championship season.

Signed this the 19th day of June, 2007.

SPENCER COUNTY COUNCIL

William Spaetti, President	Jack N. Kroeger
Steve Winsett	David Kress
James L. Ebert	Blake Bunner
James R. Cochenour	Cindy Shelton, Auditor

Cochenour made a motion to pass the resolution as read. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Spencer County Website

Kevin Hunter explained the work of the Spencer County Website Committee. He stated the website would be under the domain name of www.spencercounty.in.gov. Hunter stated the committee has taken quotes on the design and hosting of the website and decided on PSCI at a five year total of \$12,750. Hunter further explained that Access Spencer County has voted to support the website by paying half of the initial start up costs. With the donation from Access Spencer County, the initial investment from the county will only be \$375., and then an estimated \$4,000 annually. Shelton explained that the \$4,000 annually will be requested in the Commissioners budget. The initial \$375 for this year the commissioners can transfer from within their current budget. Hunter further explained that the commissioners and the website committee are not asking for money right now, but just making the council aware of how it will impact the budget.

Hunter stated that in the future there are other options that can be added to the website, such as paying taxes online, which will require additional funding if added. Initially the office sites will cover the most frequently asked questions. Hunter gave the council copies of the proposed logo and the proposed look of the website homepage. Kroeger expressed concern over signing a multi-year contract. Hunter explained the initial design of the website is the majority of the cost. Bunner stated that the hosting of his business website is only about \$100 per month. Hunter explained that the initial design costs are around \$8,000 to \$9,000 of the \$12,750, but PSCI is spreading it out over 5 years. In addition the website will have a database which also costs more to host. Further discussion was had on other additions to the website which are possible.

Hunter explained the training that PSCI will provide and how each office will be responsible for the upkeep of their own page. If outside additional vendors are used to enhance the capabilities of a particular office's page, it would be in that office's budget.

EMA Advisory Council Appointment

Cochenour offered to fill the vacancy left by David Gogel on the EMA Advisory Board. Ebert made the motion. Winsett seconded. All in favor.

AK Steel

Kroeger stated that he has not had adequate time to review the CF-1 from AK Steel. The form is tabled until the next meeting. An environmental notice regarding AK Steel was issued by the state. Kroeger asked Wetherill to review and report back to the council.

Budget Hearing Dates

August 27, 28, and 29 were the suggested dates for budget hearings. Ebert made a motion to approve August 27, 28, and 29 at 8:00 am for budget hearings. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Additional in Legal Services

Spaetti stated that the council depleted the legal services money appropriated and need to ask for an additional. Spaetti stated he will advertise \$5,000 and it can be discussed at the next meeting.

Acceleration of the SR 231 Project

Kroeger stated that the announcement of the acceleration of the SR 231 project is huge for the county. It will now be finished in 2011 instead of 2015.

Dedication of Abraham Lincoln Signs

Kroeger stated that the new signs that will be located throughout the state were dedicated, adding “Lincoln’s Boyhood Home.” He further stated that anything that calls attention to Abraham Lincoln helps Spencer County. Dean Bolin, the secretary of Think Lincoln, asked the council to consider putting aside money in the upcoming budget to honor or contribute to some of the activities during the Lincoln Bicentennial. Kroeger stated that it is a great idea but it might be better to have it come up as an additional.

Ebert made a motion to adjourn. Kress seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

County Council,

_____ President	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Attest:	_____
_____	_____
Cindy Shelton, Auditor	_____
